

HOUSE BILL NO. 252

INTRODUCED BY J. KARLEN, C. KEOGH, M. MARLER, E. STAFMAN, M. THANE, M. DUNWELL, J.

TREBAS

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN OPTIONAL MENTAL HEALTH SCHOOL SCREENING PROGRAM; ESTABLISHING SCREENING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS; TRANSFERRING FUNDS; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AMENDING SECTION 16-12-111, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Mental health school screening program. (1) There is available to

schools that wish to participate a mental health school screening program to identify depression, anxiety, and suicide risk in middle school and high school students.

(2) The department shall contract with a vendor that, at a minimum, has the ability to:

(a) identify schools interested in providing a mental health screening program that links students to appropriate services, as needed;

(b) use a best practice, standardized tool to screen for depression, anxiety, and suicide risk;

(c) provide immediate clinical followup services for students whose screenings indicate an imminent risk of self-harm;

(d) establish a network of mental health professionals who:

(i) commit to being available to provide continued clinical care to students who have an identified need for mental health services if the student or the student's parent elects to seek treatment for the student; and

(ii) are able to bill public and private payment sources for the services; and

(e) report regularly to the department on the number of students screened and, in a deidentified manner, on the outcomes of the screenings, the proportion of students screened who received same-day mental health services, and the proportion of students who used case management services.

1 (3) The department shall obtain an acknowledgment from the selected vendor that the vendor will
2 comply with state and federal laws regarding privacy of student records and health care information.

3
4 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Mental health school screening special revenue account.** (1) There is
5 an account in the state special revenue fund provided for in 17-2-102 to the credit of the department.

6 (2) The account consists of:

7 (a) money transferred from the marijuana state special revenue account as provided in 16-12-111;
8 and

9 (b) interest or income earned on the account.

10 (3) Money in the account must be used by the department for the mental health school screening
11 program provided for in [section 1].

12

13 **Section 3.** Section 16-12-111, MCA, is amended to read:

14 **"16-12-111. Marijuana state special revenue account -- operating reserve -- transfer of excess**
15 **funds.** (1) There is a dedicated marijuana state special revenue account within the state special revenue fund
16 established in 17-2-102, to be administered by the department.

17 (2) The account consists of:

18 (a) money deposited into the account pursuant to this chapter;

19 (b) the taxes collected pursuant to Title 15, chapter 64, part 1;

20 (c) license and registered cardholder fees deposited into the account pursuant to this chapter;

21 (d) taxes deposited into the account pursuant to 16-12-310; and

22 (e) civil penalties collected under this chapter.

23 (3) Except as provided in subsection (4), money in the account must be used by the department
24 for the purpose of administering the provisions of this chapter.

25 (4) At the end of each fiscal year, the department shall transfer funds in excess of a 3-month
26 operating reserve necessary to fund operating costs at the beginning of the next fiscal year in the following
27 order:

28 (a) an amount not to exceed \$6 million must be transferred to the healing and ending addiction

1 through recovery and treatment (HEART) account established in 16-12-122;

2 (b) the net balance remaining after distribution to the HEART account must be distributed as
3 follows:

4 (i) 20% to the credit of the department of fish, wildlife, and parks to be used solely as funding for
5 wildlife habitat in the same manner as funding generated under 87-1-242(3) and used pursuant to 87-1-209;

6 (ii) 4% to the state park account established in 23-1-105(1);

7 (iii) 4% to the trails and recreational facilities account established in 23-2-108;

8 (iv) 4% to the nongame wildlife account established in 87-5-121;

9 (v) the following amounts to the mental health school screening special revenue account provided
10 for in [section 2]:

11 (A) \$2.1 million for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023; and

12 (B) \$4.7 million in each subsequent fiscal year;

13 ~~(v)~~(vi) 3% or \$200,000, whichever is less, to the veterans and surviving spouses state special
14 revenue account provided for in 10-2-108;

15 ~~(vi)~~(vii) for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, \$300,000 to the department of justice to administer
16 grant funding to local and state law enforcement agencies for the purpose of purchasing and training drug
17 detection canines and canine handlers, including canines owned by local law enforcement agencies to replace
18 canines who were trained to detect marijuana;

19 ~~(vii)~~(viii) \$150,000 to the board of crime control to fund crisis intervention team training as provided in
20 44-7-110; and

21 ~~(viii)~~(ix) the remainder to the general fund. (Subsection ~~(4)(b)(vi)~~ (4)(b)(vii) terminates June 30, 2025--
22 sec. 117(2), Ch. 576, L. 2021.)"

23
24 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Appropriation.** (1) The following amounts are appropriated from the
25 mental health school screening special revenue account provided for in [section 2] to the department of public
26 health and human services for the purposes of [section 1]:

27 Fiscal year 2024 \$2.1 million

28 Fiscal year 2025 \$4.7 million

